(b) if so, the reasons for spread of the disease; and

(c) whether Government have chalked out any plan to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) According to ICMR epidemiological studies in different cities including Mumbai, approximately 5 to 10% of the population in all age groups is suffering from asthma.

(b) The reasons for increased prevalence of asthma in cities including Mumbai are high density of vehicular traffic leading to increased oxidant air pollution, higher level of indoor air pollution, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, increase dietary salt intake, reduced antioxidants in diet, etc.

(c) The steps to control asthma include early identification and effective treatment appropriate for the severity of the disease. Facilities for diagnosis and treatment of asthma are available all over the country.

China's share in world herbal medicine market

2518. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has secured a share of $ 16 billion in world herbal medicine market;

(b) the incentives Government are providing to promote Indian Systems of Medicine;

(c) whether the Ayurvedic formulation units have asked for exemption from VAT and also from import duty on equipments for analytical purposes; and

(d) whether the newly formed National Medicinal Plants Board can function as a nodal agency for overseeing proper utilization of incentives by the indigenous medicine manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) This information is not available with the Government.

(b) The following initiatives would provide incentives for the promotion of ISM and H:

(i) A separate ISM and H Policy 2002 provides an opportunity for proper development of ISM and H sector;

(ii) Medicinal Plants Board has been established to facilitate availability of quality raw drugs for domestic and export products.

(iii) Labeling provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetics rules 1945 have been relaxed to meet the requirements of importing countries for marketing of Ayurvedic/herbal medicines in the importing countries.

(iv) Good Manufacturing Practices have been notified.

(v) Enabling provision has been made to recognise private laboratories.

(vi) Ayurvedic Formulary and Pharmacopoeia have been published.

(vii) Industry has been encouraged to participate in Fairs and Exhibitions abroad.

(viii) A number of other schemes have been implemented to upgrade education, research, quality control and drug standardization.

(c) Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association (ADMA) have requested for VAT @ 4% on the Ayurvedic medicines. Other Associations/companies have also requested for exemption of import duty on equipments for analysis purposes.

(d) No, Sir.

Central Government hospitals breeding secondary infections

2519. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of major hospitals in Delhi run by the Central Government breed secondary infections leading to serious health hazards;